

What is claimed is:

1. a mechanical user interface (MUI) for a wireless communications device comprising:  
a communications keypad coupled to the steering wheel of a motor vehicle  
a visual operational display  
a method inherent in physical design enabling operation by touch rather than sight
2. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
a remote and/or direct communications link to a host cell-phone  
a remote and/or direct communications link to a voice/speaker interface or headset
3. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
a communications keypad coupled to a steering wheel  
a remote and/or direct communications link to a host cell-phone  
a remote and/or direct communications link to a voice/speaker interface or headset
4. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
a remote and/or direct communications link to a cell phone
5. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
wireless communication connectivity
6. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
a remote and/or direct communications link to the internet
7. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
operational keys placed so as to be positioned on the backside of the steering wheel  
relative to the vehicle operator
8. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
operational keys placed so as to be positioned at the fingertips of the vehicle operator.
9. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
raised lettering
10. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
raised lettering on keys placed off-center of key as tactile cue
11. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
a visual operational-display which rotates, allowing it to be read  
vertically and horizontally
12. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
a rotating visual operational-display capable of maintaining verticality independent  
of the plain maintained by the MUI control facial.

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13. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
a speakerphone
14. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
a wireless headset
15. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
wireless connectivity
16. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:  
a rotating visual operational-display  
wireless two-way connectivity  
a wireless headset  
a speakerphone
17. A method for operation of a mechanical user interface (MUI) for a wireless communications device coupled to the steering wheel of a motor vehicle comprising:  
  
placement of at least one hand on steering wheel *in order* that a user may initiate or otherwise transact wireless communication through the act of depression of keys on keypad.  
  
tactile operational cues on fascia and housing designed for method of operation not requiring visual cues for operation.  
  
keypad operation through the use of tactile cues on fascia and housing allowing through method and utility a vehicle operator's train of vision to remain unimpeded.
18. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
raised lettering on keys
19. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
raised lettering on housing
20. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
key placement positioned along the backside of steering wheel.
21. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
shape and patterning of key arrangement
22. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
shape of keys

23. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
angle of keys
24. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of hand along fascia
25. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of hand along housing
26. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
operational keys placed so as to be positioned at the fingertips of the vehicle operator.
27. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
operational keys placed so as to be positioned on the backside of the steering wheel  
relative to the vehicle operator
28. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
raised lettering on keys  
patterning of key placement  
shape of keys  
angle of keys  
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of user's hand along fascia  
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of user's hand along housing  
operational keys placed so as to be positioned on the backside of the steering wheel  
operational keys placed so as to be positioned at the fingertips of the vehicle operator.
29. A mechanical user interface (MUI) for a wireless communications device comprising:
- a communications keypad coupled to the steering wheel of a motor vehicle
- a communications keypad capable of being readily uncoupled from the steering wheel of a  
motor vehicle
- keypad operation through the use of tactile cues on fascia and housing
- tactile operational cues on fascia and housing designed for method of operation not requiring  
visual cues for operation
30. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
raised lettering on housing

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31. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
key placement positioned along the backside of steering wheel.
32. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
shape and patterning of key arrangement
33. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
shape of keys
34. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
angle of keys
35. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of hand along fascia
36. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of hand along housing
37. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
operational keys placed so as to be positioned on the backside of the steering wheel  
relative to the vehicle operator
38. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
finger and/or hand positioning groove/s and/or ridges enabling user orientation by touch to  
key-pad
39. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,  
raised lettering on keys  
patterning of key placement  
shape of keys  
angle of keys  
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of user's hand along fascia  
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of user's hand along housing  
finger and/or hand positioning groove/s and/or ridges  
operational keys placed so as to be positioned on the backside of the steering wheel  
operational keys placed so as to be positioned at the fingertips of the vehicle operator.
40. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
tactile design orientations on dialing fascia coupled to steering wheel enable a motor vehicle  
operator to maintain consistent hand contact with the steering wheel, while initiating,  
fielding, or terminating phone calls through the method of touch.

41. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
a dialing key pad coupled to a steering wheel whereon are placed raised numbers, symbols, and/or designators.
42. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
a dialing keypad placed on a steering wheel whereon tactile designators assign recognition value meaningful to the user for operating keypad functions on the basis of touch.
43. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
an input keypad coupled to a steering wheel  
a visual display coupled to steering wheel  
a headset coupled via a retractable cable
44. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
a visual display coupled to vehicle console
45. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
a visual display placed along a driver's line of sight to the road.
46. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
a rotational visual operational-display capable of being read by the operator independently of the vertical or horizontal positioning of the MUI control fascia.
47. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
an interfacing link to a host wireless communications device
48. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:  
an input keypad coupled to a steering wheel  
an interfacing link between voice/speech interface, input keypad, and cell phone
49. A mechanical user interface (MUI) for a wireless communications device comprising:
- a communications keypad with utility for secure attachment to a steering wheel of a motor vehicle
- keypad operation through the use of tactile cues on fascia and housing
- tactile operational cues on fascia and housing designed for method of operation not requiring visual cues for operation
- a rotating LC display capable of independent clockwise or counterclockwise rotation within the body of device, and therefore capable of vertical display at varying angles.
- wireless operation while *both* coupled and uncoupled from steering wheel

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50. the invention in accordance with claim 49 comprising:  
a wireless communications device
51. the invention in accordance with claim 49 comprising:  
a speakerphone
52. the invention in accordance with claim 49 comprising:  
a headset or earphone
53. the invention in accordance with claim 49 comprising:  
Velcro attachments for coupling to steering wheel of a motor vehicle
54. the invention in accordance with claim 49 comprising:  
molded housing for conformance and attachment to steering wheel of motor vehicle

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